



**Doc. 13414**

30 January 2014

## Legalisation of euthanasia for children in Belgium

### Written declaration No. 567

Considering the December 2013 vote in the Belgian Senate to approve by 50 votes to 17 a proposal to legalise euthanasia for children (without any age limit);

Bearing in mind that:

- the Committee of Ministers welcomed in this respect paragraph 9 (c) of the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1418 (1999), to “encourage the member States of the Council of Europe to respect and protect the dignity of terminally ill or dying persons in all respects by upholding the prohibition against intentionally taking the life of terminally ill or dying persons”;
- the Assembly, in its Resolution 1859 (2012) stated that “Euthanasia, in the sense of the intentional killing by act or omission of a dependent human being for his or her alleged benefit, must always be prohibited”,

the undersigned members of the Parliamentary Assembly are of the opinion that this vote in the Belgian Senate:

- betrays some of the most vulnerable children in Belgium by accepting that their lives may no longer have any inherent value or worth and that they should die;
- mistakenly assumes that children are able to give appropriate informed consent to euthanasia and that they can understand the grave meaning and complex consequences associated with such a decision;
- promotes the unacceptable belief that a life can be unworthy of life which challenges the very basis of civilised society.

*Signed (see overleaf)*

Signed <sup>1</sup>:

GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD  
AMBLER Stella, Canada  
AMON Werner, Austria, EPP/CD  
BADEA Viorel Riceard, Romania, EPP/CD  
BAKRADZE David, Georgia, EPP/CD  
BENEYTO José María, Spain, EPP/CD  
BENTON Joe, United Kingdom, SOC  
BOKUCHAVA Tinatin, Georgia, EPP/CD  
BORZOVA Olga, Russian Federation, EDG  
BRAUN Márton, Hungary, EPP/CD  
CESA Lorenzo, Italy, EPP/CD  
CHISU Corneliu, Canada  
CLAPPISON James, United Kingdom, EDG  
CLUNE Deirdre, Ireland, EPP/CD  
CONDE Agustín, Spain, EPP/CD  
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC  
CRAUSBY David, United Kingdom, SOC  
CROSIO Jonny, Italy, EDG  
DAVIES David, United Kingdom, EDG  
DERVOZ Ismeta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD  
DJUROVIĆ Aleksandra, Serbia, EPP/CD  
DONALDSON Jeffrey, United Kingdom, EDG  
FABRITIUS Bernd, Germany, EPP/CD  
FENECHIU Cătălin Daniel, Romania, ALDE  
FISCHER Axel E., Germany, EPP/CD  
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD  
GALATI Giuseppe, Italy, EPP/CD  
GERASIMOVA Nadezda, Russian Federation, EDG  
GÓRCZYŃSKI Jarosław, Poland, EPP/CD  
GORGHIU Alina Ștefania, Romania, ALDE  
HAJIYEV Sabir, Azerbaijan, SOC  
HEER Alfred, Switzerland, ALDE  
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD  
HOVHANNISYAN Arpine, Armenia, EPP/CD  
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD  
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD  
KARADJOVA Deniza, Bulgaria, SOC  
KARAPETYAN Naira, Armenia, EPP/CD  
KYRIAKIDES Stella, Cyprus, EPP/CD  
LEIGH Edward, United Kingdom, EDG  
MAGHRADZE Guguli, Georgia, SOC  
MARJANOVIĆ Vesna, Serbia, SOC  
MATUŠIĆ Frano, Croatia, EPP/CD  
MAYER Edgar, Austria, EPP/CD  
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC  
MORENO PALANQUES Rubén, Spain, EPP/CD  
NIKOLOSKI Aleksandar, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", EPP/CD  
OSCARSSON Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD  
PALIHOVICI Liliana, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD  
PREDA Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD

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1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group  
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democrat Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

QUINTANILLA Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD  
REILLY Kathryn, Ireland, UEL  
RIVARD Michel, Canada  
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC  
RZAYEV Rovshan, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD  
SHLEGEL Robert, Russian Federation, EDG  
SIDYAKIN Alexander, Russian Federation, EDG  
SOBOLEV Serhiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
STEFANELLI Lorella, San Marino, EPP/CD  
STRENZ Karin, Germany, EPP/CD  
TIMCHENKO Vyacheslav, Russian Federation, EDG

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Total = 58